



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 May 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
7 MAY 1968

1. North Korea

A BLACK SHIELD mission yesterday covered the southern half of North Korea; only about 50 percent of the land area was cloud free.

The first brief look at the pictures in the field shows no real change in North Korea's military posture. No new surface-to-air missile activity, surface-to-surface missile activity, or evidence of significant military movement or build-up was observed.

The photographs are expected in Washington tonight, and further work on them will begin immediately.

2. South Vietnam

Cabinet changes--possibly including the replacement of Prime Minister Loc by Tran Van Huong--are said to be imminent.

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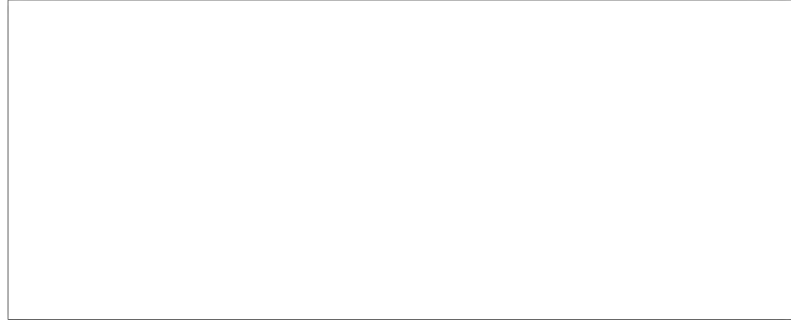
3. Soviet Union

Satellite photography shows that 18 silos under construction are probably for a new solid-propellant ICBM. The first of these silos could be completed by mid-1969.

Construction continues on older liquid-fueled ICBM systems, but we have detected few new starts in recent months. There are about 800 operational launchers for these systems, with another 200 still building.

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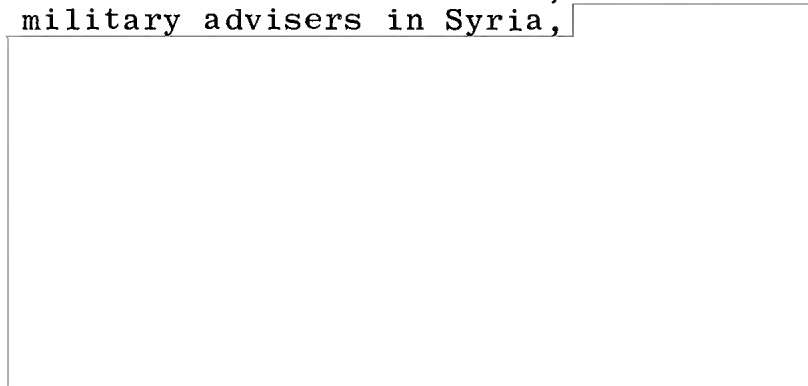
4. Egypt -
Soviet Union



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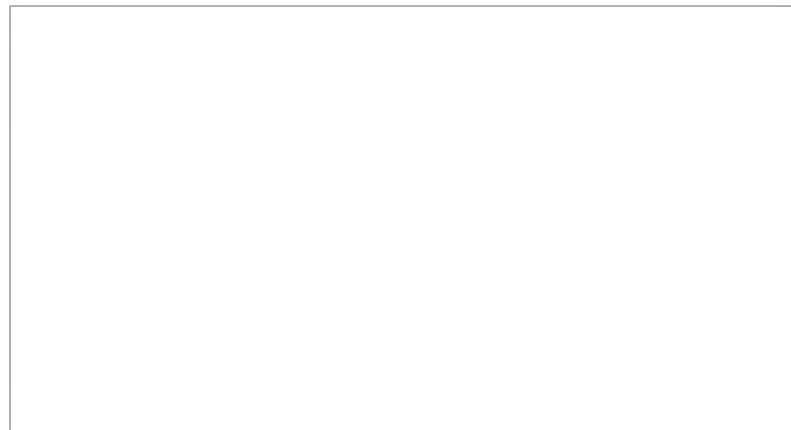
5. Syria -
Soviet Union

There are now about 1,200 Soviet
military advisers in Syria,



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6. Kenya



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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

7 May 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Liberation Front Endorses Hanoi's Moves: In keeping with their earlier caution on peace developments, Viet Cong/Liberation Front media have applauded the North Vietnamese diplomatic initiative of 3 May, but apparently without spelling out precisely what the initiative involved. A Viet Cong news agency commentary of 4 May, which was cited on 6 May by Hanoi's international service in English, merely said that Viet Cong "warmly welcomed" the North Vietnamese statement concerning "the level, place, and time of the formal talks." The commentary asserted that the North Vietnamese had once again demonstrated their "justice" and "good will" and had thus helped mobilize world opinion behind the Communist cause. It said that Hanoi's statement represented "the voice of victors who are infinitely confident in the final triumph of their cause," and it concluded that this would give new confidence to the forces fighting in the South.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Election Propaganda: Hanoi has devoted minimal propaganda attention to the US presidential elections during the past two weeks. There have been a few more references to the President's announcement of his decision not to run for re-election, and Vice-President Humphrey's declaration of candidacy is mentioned in passing in a Nhan Dan commentary on 30 April pegged to Ambassador Goldberg's resignation.

The campaigning of the other avowed candidates is not discussed. For example, although Hanoi cites criticism by Senators McCarthy and Kennedy of the administration's stand on a site for contacts with North Vietnam, it does not mention that either senator is a candidate. Nixon and Rockefeller are not mentioned at all.

An authoritative reference to the elections appears in an interview granted by Politburo member Truong Chinh to Cuba's Prensa Latina and is carried by the Vietnam news agency in English on 30 April. Chinh says that the antiwar and civil rights movements in the United States, "in harmony with the Vietnamese people's resistance struggle," will be able to "compel the US rulers to change not only an American president, but also the entire policy of aggression and enslavement being pursued now by the United States."

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